

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated November 26, 2005. Since February 26, 2005 is a Saturday, the period for response extends up to and includes February 28, 2005, and this paper is thus timely filed within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,716,876 to Petzon et al., and claims 1-2, 4-5 and 12-13 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,544,371 to Fuller. In addition, claims 15, 17, 19 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuller; and claims 3, 6-11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuller in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,329,217 to Kerkman. The Examiner did indicate, however, that claims 20-29 were allowable, and that claims 14 and 18 were directed to allowable subject matter.

As an initial matter, Applicant hereby affirms the election of the prosecution of the Group I claims (claims 1-30, drawn to patient support apparatus, classified in class 318, subclass 504) without traverse as arranged in a telephone conversation between the Examiner and the undersigned on November 18, 2004.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections to the extent that they are maintained. However, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledging the allowable claims and subject matter as indicated above. To further these claims on to issuance, Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 14 and 18 into their respective independent claims. Claims 1, 15 and 23 have been amended claims, and claims 14, 18 and 31-32 have been canceled. New claims 33-35 depend upon allowed claim 20 and include features that further distinguish over the prior art.

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Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is being added by the above amendments, as the amendments are fully supported in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

2/28/05

Date



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